

12707 P04US  
JC/mej  
03/21/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants: Paul MOELTGEN, Pirmin WILHELM  
For: Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/SiC NANOCOMPOSITE ABRASIVE GRAINS, METHOD FOR  
PRODUCING THEM AND THEIR USE

Perkins, Smith & Cohen, LLP  
One Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
(617) 854-4000

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Box PCT

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT MADE UPON U.S. NATIONAL PHASE ENTRY**

Please amend certain claims in the above-identified application as follows:

-- 1. (amended) Method for the production of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/SiC nanocomposite abrasive grains, characterized by the fact that an aluminum-oxide containing sol is mixed with sinter additives and SiC nanoparticles and subsequently gelled, dried, calcined and sintered the sintering being conducted by heating the mixture in the range between 1300°C and 1600°C.

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-- 4. (amended) Method according to [one or several] either of Claims 1 [through 3] or 2, [characterized by the fact that] wherein prior to the gelling, sintering additives in the form of crystallization seeds, crystal growth inhibitors and/or other modifying components that influence the sintering process are added.--

-- 6. (amended) Method according to [one or several] either of Claims 1 [through 5] or 2, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the gelling of the suspensions occurs by increasing or decreasing the pH value; through aging; the addition of electrolytes; increased temperature; and/or concentrating the solution. --

-- 7. (amended) Method according to [one or several] either of Claims 1 [through 6] or 2,